

## Message Text

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13-12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-01 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INT-05 L-03 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01 OES-03 SS-15

STR-04 TRSE-00 /108 W

----- 016037

R 250508Z NOV 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2576

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, KU, ENRG

SUBJ: IRAQI PRESS THEMES

1. DURING THE PAST WEEK FOLLOWING THEMES HAVE EMERGED IN  
BAGHDAD'S GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS:

A) EMOTIONAL AND HOSTILE USG REACTION TO UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON  
PALESTINIANS AND ON ZIONISM PROVES THAT THERE IS NO CHANCE OF  
REDUCING AMERICA'S HOSTILITY TO ARABS BY WORKING WITH USG ON  
STEP-BY-STEP SOLUTION TO ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM.

B) KUWAITI GOVT. HAS UNDERMINED UNITY OF OPEC AND UNDERCUT  
ARAB NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES BY UNILATERALLY REDUCING PRICE

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OF HIGH SULPHUR CRUDE.

C) SYRIAN REGIME, WHILE PRETENDING TO OPPOSE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT, IS PREPARING TO FOLLOW SUIT IN CAPITULATING TO AMERICAN ZIONIST IMPERIALISM BY EXTENDING UNDOF AND ACCEPTING AMERICAN PLAN FOR LIQUIDATION OF ARAB RIGHTS.

D) IRAQ SUPPORTS THE ANNEXATION OF THE SAHARA TO ONE, TWO, OR EVEN THREE, NEIGHBORING ARAB STATES, BUT DOES NOT FAVOR INDEPENDENCE FOR THE SAHARA.

2. COMMENT: IRAQI RHETORICAL OPPOSITION TO "PARTIAL" SOLUTION TO ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM CONTINUES UNABATED, BUT RUMORS CIRCULATING LAST WEEK IN BAGHDAD THAT GOI PREPARED TO PUT TEETH INTO THEIR OPPOSITION BY IMPOSING PARTIAL COMMERCIAL BOYCOTT ON WESTERN BUSINESS FIRMS WERE APPARENTLY FALLACIOUS. FROM ALL INDICATIONS GOI STILL ENCOURAGING U.S. AND WEST EUROPEAN FIRMS TO DO BUSINESS IN IRAQ DESPITE GOI'S DIFFERENCES WITH WEST OVER UN RESOLUTIONS AND USG PEACE-SEEKING EFFORTS. OIL PRICING DISPUTE WITH KUWAIT REFLECTS IRAQI CONCERN THAT IRAQ'S OIL REVENUES MAY NOT KEEP PACE WITH ITS AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND MAY ALSO SIGNAL NEW CAMPAIGN TO FORCE CONCESSIONS FROM KUWAIT ON BORDER ISSUES. SNIPING AT SYRIAN REGIME HAS RESUMED AFTER TEMPORARY LULL IN OCTOBER. IRAQI PRESS ON NOV. 24 GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO INA STORY ON DETENTION OF TWO IRAQI DIPLOMATS BY SYRIAN AUTHORITIES ON NOV. 21. IRAQI POSITION ON SAHARA WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF GOI'S PAST FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALGERIAN REGIME. GOI STANCE MAY REFLECT IRAQI CONCLUSION THAT THIS ISSUE HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED AND THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY LINING UP ON LOSING SIDE.

WILEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUL 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IRAQI PRESS THEMES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ENRG, SOPN, IZ, KU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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